

NORTH PACIFIC
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2026



CHUM BYCATCH TOOLKIT

NPFC OVERVIEW



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or NPFC) is one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) in 1976 to manage fisheries in the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, 3 miles off the coast of Alaska.

The council has been outlined by the MSA to:

- Set harvest quotas
- Set prohibited species catch limits
- Set gear/season area restrictions
- Design ecosystem and habitat protections
- Develop community protections
- Construct monitoring programs
- Create limited entry access privileges

The Council manages trawling, longline, jig, pot and dredge fishermen; catcher vessels and catcher-processors in the industry; and groundfish, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab, scallops, salmon bycatch, and halibut.

THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for making final decisions on issues. There are 15 council members—11 voting and 4 non-voting. The people serving on the Council are made of up appointees and representatives from Alaska (9), Washington (3), and Oregon (2). Membership includes representatives from various fishing sectors and government agencies, such as the Coast Guard & USFWS. **There are currently no seats designated for tribes or tribal organizations.**



[Learn more
about
members](#)

ADVISORY GROUPS



Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) - Responsible for providing recommendations to the full council with technical and scientific matters. The committee is composed of leading scientists in biology, economics, statistics, and social science.



Advisory Panel (AP) - Members represent major fishery sectors [catching/processing, fishermen (subsistence, commercial, sport), observers, consumers, & environmental/conservation]. They are responsible for making recommendations to the full Council.

MEETING INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2-11, 2026

SSC: FEBRUARY 2-4

AP: FEBRUARY 2-7

COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 5-11

All meetings held at the **Egan Center** at 555 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Listen online on **Zoom** or these **YouTube** channels:



[SSC & Council](#)



[Advisory Panel](#)

NPFMC will discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management. The Council is considering five alternatives to address chum bycatch and is scheduled to receive reports and discuss them February 5-11.

At this time, they will take oral testimony. Written comments were due January 30th and can be found on the NPFMC website (where you will find NPA's comment).

Also found [here](#) are the agendas for all meetings, links to sign up for public testimony, and how to listen live.



IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT

It is especially important that we as Indigenous people contribute in these spaces; our traditional knowledge and thousands of years of stewardship sustained us long before any current management system. Traditional knowledge must be part of the conversation. Each of us has the ability to make change, share our story and be part of creating a solution that ensures a healthy ecosystem for all communities, now and into the future. **Your voice is needed in this process.**



DEIS OVERVIEW CHUM BYCATCH

Following the February 2025 meeting, a revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Regulatory Impact Review was published. This DEIS is an analysis of the environmental impacts of proposed management measures to minimize chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, particularly bycatch of chum salmon of Western Alaskan origin.

A DEIS provides assessments of the environmental impacts of an action and its reasonable alternatives as well as the economic benefits and costs of the action alternatives and their distribution. This DEIS includes the following management measures in the form of alternatives:

- A limit on chum salmon bycatch
- A limit on chum salmon bycatch that would apply only during lower chum abundance
- Additional chum salmon avoidance measures managed by formal fishermen agreements; and
- A limit on chum salmon bycatch that triggers a temporary closure of an area with historically higher rates of bycatch of chum salmon from Western Alaska.

Access the full DEIS (772 pages) using the QR code to the right.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Impact Review

Proposed Amendment to the
Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the
Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Area

Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management

September 2025



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

ABBREVIATION KEY

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

PSC: Prohibited Species Catch

NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service

CDQ: Community Development Quota

BSAI: Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

TAC: Total Allowable Catch

OFL: Overfishing Limit

ABC: Acceptable Biological Catch

MSA: Magnuson-Stevens Act

FMP: Fishery Management Plan

WAK: Western Alaska

CWAK: Coastal Western Alaska

AEQ: Adult Equivalent

IPA: Incentive Plan Agreement

CP: Catcher/processor

CV: Catcher vessel

FIVE ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE 1

NO ACTION: This would maintain all aspects of the current regulations of chum salmon bycatch. There are existing incentives for avoidance, but there is **no cap**.

ALTERNATIVE 2

OVERALL PSC LIMIT: This would implement an overall chum salmon PSC limit during the pollock B season. This would function as a hard cap. Four options exist within this alternative. **We are supporting option 1 of 100,000.**

ALTERNATIVE 3

OVERALL PSC LIMIT WITH ABUNDANCE INDICES: This is similar to alternative 2, however the overall PSC limit would only be applied if an index of WAK chum salmon abundance did not have returns above its thresholds the prior year. In years when the PSC limit did not apply, impacts would mirror status quo.

CDQ RESERVE POOL UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 OR 3: This would exist outside the overall chum PSC limit. NMFS would need to be notified of their intent to fish CDQ pollock with the inshore or mothership sectors and would apportion an additional amount of chum PSC to the group from the pool.

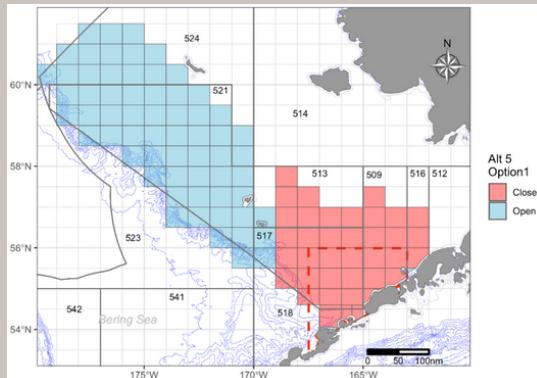
ALTERNATIVE 4

ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR IPAs: This would modify regulations for the salmon bycatch IPAs, adding six additional provisions requiring pollock sectors to take various measures to protect chum salmon. These can be recommended individually or as a complete package. **We are recommending all six be codified into regulations.**

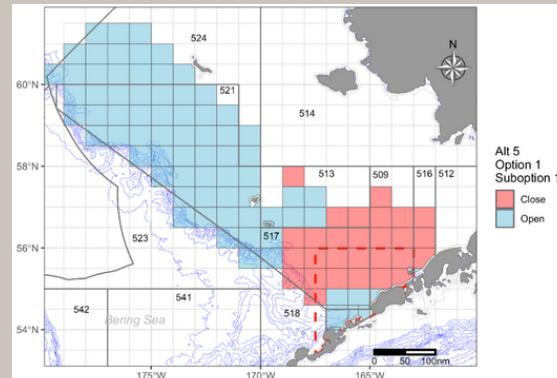
ALTERNATIVE 5

INSEASON CORRIDOR CAP: This would implement a time/area closure triggered by a bycatch cap. Three different options are being considered. **We are supporting option 1 with a cap of 50,000 chum salmon.**

Option 1: 40 corridor stat areas



Suboption 1: 29 corridor stat areas



Option 2: 19 to 29 stat areas selected by IPAs, could change year-to-year

HOW TO **PARTICIPATE**

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The written comment period typically opens a month ahead of the meetings and closes before the meetings begin. Submit comments on the meeting page under the corresponding agenda item (in this meeting's case, C2 for chum bycatch). *The public comment period for this meeting has closed.*

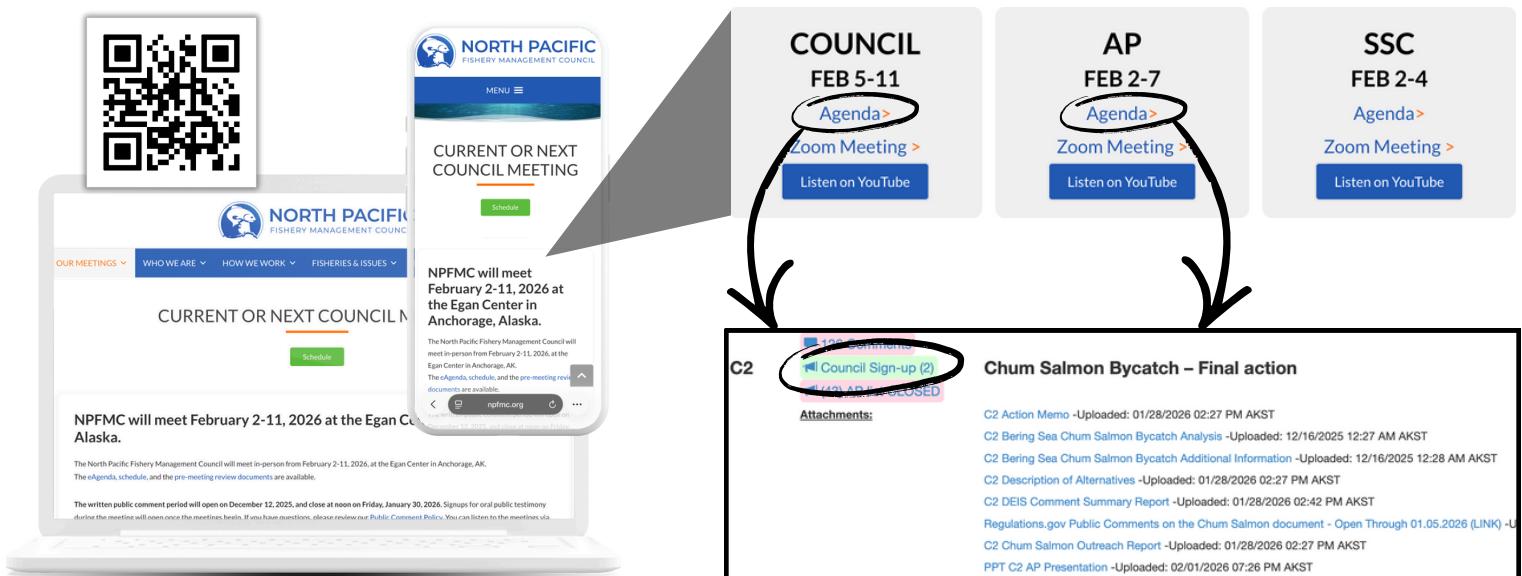


ORAL TESTIMONY

The Council takes oral testimony **in-person and remotely** at the meeting. **Sign-ups close at the end of reports for the corresponding agenda item.** Once testimony begins, the Council will go in order people signed up; if you miss your first call up to testify, you get one call back.



VISIT THE MEETING PAGE FOR AGENDA & SIGN-UPS



To view NPFMC's public comment policy, visit npfmc.org/public-comment-policy

NOTES

SCHEDULE

COUNCIL	THURSDAY 2/5	FRIDAY 2/6	SATURDAY 2/7
	8AM B REPORTS 1PM B REPORTS C1 GOA PCOD	8AM C2 CHUM SALMON 1PM C2 CHUM SALMON	8AM SSC REPORT 1PM C2 CHUM SALMON
AP	C2 CHUM SALMON	C2 & STAFF TASKING	
COUNCIL	SUN. 2/8 - MON. 2/9	TUESDAY 2/10	WEDNESDAY, 2/11
	8AM C2 CHUM SALMON 1PM C2 CHUM SALMON	8AM C2 CHUM 1PM C2 CHUM C3 CI SALMON	8AM E STAFF TASKING 1PM E STAFF TASKING



Kelsi Ivanoff
kelsi@aknpeoplesaction.org

WE ARE HERE TO
SUPPORT YOU

Native Peoples Action is here as a resource. If you need help signing up, drafting testimony, understanding the alternatives, or navigating this space, please feel free to reach out to us. We have staff present at the meeting.

www.nativepeoplesaction.org